

Washington, DC -- U.S. Representative Michael A. Arcuri (D-Utica) testified today in opposition to New York Regional Interconnection's power line proposal during a public hearing hosted by the New York State Public Service Commission (PSC) at Mohawk Valley Community College (MVCC).

"I have opposed the NYRI proposal every step of the way and will continue to do so," **Arcuri said**

"The NYRI power line would knife a scar through Upstate New York – raising energy costs, decreasing home values, and threatening the environment and the health of our families."

"The NYRI Proposal was ill-conceived and poorly planned from the beginning and it has remained largely unchanged," **Arcuri continued**. "Absolutely nothing has been done to address the concerns of local citizens. I have yet to meet a single person anywhere in Upstate New York who supports the NYRI project – all we have to do is look at the community turnout here today to see how bad this proposal really is."

Following formal testimony during today's PSC hearing, Arcuri plans to return to MVCC and meet with local community groups to rally in opposition to NYRI. "The incredible community opposition we've seen to NYRI's proposal is a true example of fighting for what you believe in," **Arcuri said**

As a citizen and an elected official, Arcuri has fought for years to prevent NYRI's power line proposal from moving forward. Since taking office, Arcuri has hosted public meetings in New Hartford and Norwich, testified at Congressional hearings in opposition to new eminent domain authority given to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, introduced legislation, offered amendments, and sent multiple letters to senior Department of Energy (DOE) officials opposing NYRI.

In 2007, Arcuri successfully secured the first independent government report documenting risks and costs of siting power lines, like NYRI's, along railroad rights of way. The independent, non-partisan study, conducted by the Government Accountability Office (GAO), found that siting new transmission lines, such as the one proposed by NYRI, may raise energy prices where the line starts, reduce property values and stunt alternative energy initiatives and energy

conservation. Arcuri forwarded a copy of the report to the NYS Public Service Commission, which has included the report as part of the official record on the NYRI project.

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